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FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

Paris, July 20.

The conquest of Algiers has almost turned the brains of the Parisians—all parties appear pleased at the result. The ministry as it in their opinion confirms their power—the opposition as they imagine the ministry will be unable to retain possession of Algiers without coming to a rupture with England, to avoid which they would relinquish Algiers, and thus irritate the French nation and the public generally, inasmuch as the rapid brilliancy of the affair is gratifying to their vanity. Yet as all parties are pleased from very different causes, it is by no means probable that their satisfaction will be permanent. The great question is—will the French retain possession of Algiers, and will such retention, if persisted in, be permitted by England, which is supposed to have a double interest in opposing it. On this subject Galignani's Messenger, a paper erroneously stated to be in the confidence of the British ambassador here, states that the most cordial understanding subsists on the subject between the English and French cabinets, and that there is no truth in the report of an explanation having been required by the English ministry from that of France, as to the intentions of the latter. Now although this statement is given with confidence, and as if from authority, I can state to you from an authentic, nay an official source, that on the first announcement of the expedition, a note was addressed by the British government requiring explanation on the subject, and some specific pledge as to the non-permanency of the occupation. This note led to a long correspondence between the Earl of Aberdeen and Prince Polignac, which produced several strong general professions, *but not one pledge upon which the British government can now demand the evacuation of the newly acquired territory.* So far from there being a good understanding on the subject between the two cabinets, I can assure you, from an undoubted source, that the Duke of Wellington has strongly protested against the retention of Algiers without some guarantee against such retention being made injurious to British interests, and unless these guarantees be given, there will be strong remonstrances on the part of the British cabinet. War there will

not be, for it has been resolved not to make the refusal of France a ground for rupture with that country. Your readers who do not know what my means of information are, may treat this perhaps as mere opinion, but you are better acquainted with them, and the result will show that I do not assert things without authority.

Next to Algiers, the elections are the chief topic of conversation—at this moment the returns are nearly two to one against ministers. The Journal des Debats of Friday says there are 242 for the opposition and only 127 for the ministry. Perhaps the Journal des Debats exaggerates a little, and it is yet possible for the ministry to rally so as to make the defeat a little less disastrous, but all hope of a majority in the chamber is at an end, and Prince Polignac must either change his policy, and rule with the majority, or wage an unequal contest and sink with the minority. Yet would you believe that even now the prince affects to be easy in his mind as to the probable result, and confident in his strength. He and the king, however, are the only persons who are blind to their position. Three days ago Prince Polignac wrote a letter to the Duke of Wellington, in which he combated all the arguments of the duke in a letter received from him by the prince, and concluded with an assurance that all is going on well. The prince may think so, but the Duke of Wellington will not be deceived. He has agents here who are capable of observing, and he will take care to rid himself of the imputation of upholding a weak administration against the opinion of the people. The conquest of Algiers has come opportunely to protract the fall of M. de Polignac, but it will not prevent it, for he is a man of weak mind, and labours under increased odium from the circumstance of his being so decidedly the king's favourite. It is difficult to guess how all this will end. The king is as obstinate as Polignac is weak, and the dauphin appears rather disposed to irritate than conciliate the people. It is fortunate for the royal family and the ministry, that there is no Napoleon now to step in and take advantage of the prevailing discontent—all the elements of discord are ready; it requires only a master mind to direct them.

The theatres have been pretty well attended during the month, and some pretty pieces have been produced, but talent in the higher order of the drama seems to be at rather a low ebb. Two or three tragedies and a comedy are now before the committee of the theatre Francais, and report states that they are likely to be accepted, as they are *rather* better than those which have been rejected. This, however, is saying very little in their favour. M. Laurent, the late manager of the Italian opera-house, is getting a company together for the Hague, on the approaching nuptials of the Princess Marianne, when the Emperor of Russia, and another crowned head or two, are to be present. Donzelli, Lablache, Merci-Lalande, Blasis, Santini, Zúchelli, and other eminent singers are in the company selected by M. Laurent. The speculation, is therefore an expensive one, and it remains to be seen whether the liberality of the crowned heads will reward Laurent for his spirited enterprise.

The state of the public press excites a great deal of interest here. The French papers have already given, from the Westminster Review, notice of the press in Great Britain and Ireland, and two other interesting articles on the press of Navarre, have also appeared in the Universal and other papers.

The following is an abstract of a long article on the public press in Germany, which has just been published in the Globe.—The papers under criticism are, “The National Bavarian; the Augsburg Gazette; the Austrian Observer; the Official Gazette of Prussia.” The Globe says:—

“To judge accurately of our political journals care must be taken not to measure them with yours or with those of England. As we enjoy no liberty of the press, our journals cannot pretend to manifest any independent opinion on those very ticklish points of external policy, and still less so on the peculiar affairs of the Germanic confederation. They are, of necessity, the official organs of the powers that be. The only mode by which they can at all show their real opinion is by the tone of their recitals, their communications, and even at certain times, by points of admiration, interrogation and a variety of little modes equally ingenious.

“Do not laugh; it is no mean merit with us to know how to introduce these little freedoms with skill, puerile though they appear, and the people think much

of these points gained over the censorship, which so incessantly watches over our journals. You know by experience, what a censorship is, but with us it is somewhat more humane than with you. It rarely strikes, because every one is on his guard, but then when it does it never fails to cover itself with ridicule, because it always fixes on something particularly silly.

“What contributes to render it ridiculous, is, that it is confided to *subs* who often perpetrate the most absurd things. For instance, they at one time forbade the Gazette d’Augsbourg from inserting the discourse which the king of Bavaria had pronounced at the opening of the states. Thus, in a measure, we are shut out from the contemplation of our own affairs, and those of others occupy us much more, because their mistakes are much more rare.

“Amongst the numerous journals which are only employed in internal affairs, the majority are weak and insipid. I can, however, quote two distinguished exceptions—the Iceland, and the National Bavarian. The former, though entirely ministerial, has very good articles on the administration of Bavaria;—the other published at Wurzburg, is distinguished by an independence full of dignity and moderation; sound information and excellent style. But unfortunately the people do not perceive this, and although it is the best journal in Germany, it has fewer readers than any other. After this journal I will name the Hesperus, which is published at Streiffurst, sometimes sentimental, sometimes rational: it has an extensive correspondence and is generally full of interest.

“In Prussia, there are but few such Journals as these, but in Silesia, and Prussian Westphalia there are some very tolerable papers published. There are some papers which deviate themselves to special branches of internal policy such as the *Echo of justice and police*. The *general ecclesiastical Gazetteer* at Darmstadt, the organ of rationalism, the *Gazette of the Evangelical church* at Berlin, the organ of the ultra-orthodox party, such in fact is the *Catholic Gazette of Landshut* which created and supports the Ultramontane party.

“The most noted of our political Journals is the Gazette d’Augsburg. It was started in 1798, and was conducted by the celebrated Fossil for the first year. Huber succeeded him, and gave to the Journal that tone and

character which it still retains. Since 1804, M. Stegmann has conducted it.

"Twenty-six years possession of a German newspaper, is assuredly a title on which Journalists might pique themselves. This gentleman has refused all offers of place or reward, some French Journals have accused the *Gazette d'Augsbourg* of being in the pay of Prince Metternich, but this is too weak a charge to deserve a moment's credit. All that can be said, is, that the *Gazette* sometimes receives official articles, which come directly or indirectly from Prince Metternich.

"The *Gazette* has not more than four or five thousand subscribers, and yet its expenses are enormous, nothing is spared to ensure the best correspondents.

With respect to French news, you will see beside its correspondence from Lyons, the *Gazette* will publish the discourses of your deputies, though it is not always as liberal as one could wish, but on the whole, the *Gazette d'Augsbourg* has for the last thirty years, had the honour of giving the most faithful picture, and the best compendium of one of the most remarkable epochs in the history of man.

"Amongst the first after the *Gazette d'Augsbourg*, is the *Gazette du Necker* published at Stutgard, which from 1818 to 1821, had a reputation for ultraliberalism, at the period when the king of Wurtemberg appeared as the champion of

liberal ideas against Austria. Its present mark of distinction is its former liberalism. The *Courier of peace and war*, at Nuremberg, has not the general confidence. The Correspondent of *Hambourg* is but a concoction from other papers. The *Gazette of Bremen*, celebrated during 1813 and 1814 for its patriotism, has become a nullity. And the *Gazette de Cassel*, has only the very petty merit of quoting foreign prints, and particularly yours.

"The two official Journals of Germany, are the *Gazette of state, of Prussia*, and the *Austrian Observer*. They both represent the governments of which they are the organs. They *Austrian Observer* has a great horror of all independence and all discussion. It is not however an ultra, but condemns the ultras as much as it does the liberals.

The *Gazette of state of Prussia*, has not the tone of the *Observer*, it has long been occupied with the parliamentary discussions of England, France, and the United States: openly protects the cause of the Greeks, and takes great interest in the affairs of Russia. Two or three years since the censorship found the tone of the *Journal* too liberal, and would fain have quarrelled with the Editors, but the ministry took their part, and compelled the censors to cease their prosecution."

VARIETIES, FOREIGN.

I have abridged the following account of the late "jail delivery" at the Bicêtre, from the *Courier des Tribunaux*, as I fancied it might be of interest to your readers. A grand event has just thrown the Bicêtre into agitation. Yesterday all was misery and silence; these veterans in misfortune were wandering about the courts of the prison pale as ghosts, and weak as infants; to-day all is bustle and activity. Six and twenty men are sitting on the earth, a chain from thirteen to fourteen *metres* long, composed of heavy links, galls their ankles; at equal distances are attached two other chains about three feet long, to the extremities of which are joined iron triangles closing with a rivet. The head of the galley slave is passed through this triangle, which is so fitted that it is impossible to get it off the neck, while it is, at the same time, loose

enough not to do injury; this done, an assistant holds up the iron to prevent the blows from recoiling upon the chest, while another with a strong arm and a heavy hammer, strikes in the rivet. The two galley slaves thus attached are "comrades of the chain," and are compelled to walk together side by side; it is thus that the string is usually composed in couples. Six strings of this description, comprising in all 152 galley slaves, were constructed yesterday and to day. Of this number about 80 come from the department du Var, where they had been condemned. The last chain which left the Bicêtre in April last, contained only 127. When the rivetting was finished the six strings of galley slaves seated themselves on the stone benches which surround the court, and soon after a departing song was chaunted, with many repetitions. Two